

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Applicants elected to prosecute Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 15-18 in response to a restriction requirement. The Examiner withdrew Claims 2 and 15-18 from consideration. Claims 1 and 4-8 were examined and rejected. Claim 1 and 3-7 have been amended. Claims 8-14 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Drawing objections

In response to the drawing objections, Applicants have broadened Claim 1 to eliminate the recital of an information handling system, a processor, and a memory. With respect to the Examiner's assertion that the drawings do not show a printed circuit board (PCB) or a multi layer (PCB), Applicants respectfully point the Examiner to drawing reference numerals 80, 82, 84, and 86 of FIG. 5.

Election/Restriction Requirement

In a Response filed June 30, 2006, Applicants withdrew Claims 9-14 due to an Election/Restriction and further elected Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 15-18 as being drawn to Species I (FIG 1). In the Office Action, Examiner withdrew Claims 2 and 15-18 as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants believe that the Examiner's withdrawal of Claims 2 and 15 was based on the Examiner's interpretation of Claims 2 and Claim 15 as being drawn specifically to an embodiment having a single inner via trace due to the presence of the phrase "the inner-via trace" in both claims. Applicants note that there is no antecedent basis for the phrase "the inner-via trace" in Claim 2 because Claim 1 as previously presented recited "at least one inner-via trace." Applicants submit that it would have been more appropriate for the Examiner to reject Claim 2 under Section 112, second paragraph as indefinite than to withdraw Claim 2 as being drawn to an unelected species. Applicants have amended and added new claims to re-present the subject matter of Claim 2 within the elected species.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,814 issued to Alexander W. Barr et al ("*Barr*").

With respect to Independent Claim 1, Applicant has amended to recite a PCB and a via disposed in at least a first layer of the PCB where the via terminates proximate a first surface of a second layer where the first surface of the second layer is an internal surface.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Barr because Barr does not teach expressly or inherently a via that terminates on an internal surface of a multilayer PCB. Although Barr does discuss multilayer PCBs, all of the vias taught by Barr extend through the entire PCB. See, for example, via 70 extending through the entire multilayer PCB in FIG 14. Accordingly, because the cited reference does not teach expressly or inherently all of the claim elements, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the anticipation rejection of Claim 1 and its dependent claims, which were also all rejected as being anticipated by Barr.

CONCLUSION

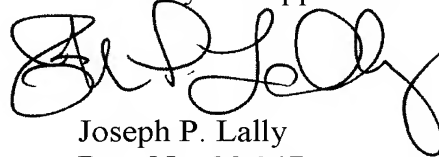
Applicants believe this response contains a reply to each ground of objection and rejection in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2680.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Lally', written over the printed name.

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